

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1587

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Chattanooga Area Food Bank on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those worthy nonprofit organizations that endeavor to improve the quality of life for the underserved in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is one such sterling organization, which has been working to eliminate hunger and promote better nutrition in Chattanooga and beyond for half a century; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1972, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank works with partner agencies to distribute food in twenty counties across Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia; the organization's feeding programs provide fourteen million pounds of food annually to 161,770 clients who live below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the food bank has done its utmost to meet the food needs of the community through a variety of programs, including community gardens, which were established during the 1980s; it was also during this time that the Bill Johnson Greenhouse was built, local neighbors were provided gardening classes, and garden tours became a well-known annual fundraising event; and

WHEREAS, partnering with community organizations has been central to the success of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank; in addition to providing groceries to partner agencies, the food bank has partnered with local news outlet WRCB Channel 3 for the Share Your Christmas annual food drive and with local schools to establish the Sack Pack program, providing food to school-aged children during weekends and school breaks; and

WHEREAS, other important fundraisers and initiatives the food bank has spearheaded or participated in over the years include the Hustle for Hunger dinner cruise, the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger food drive, the Hullabowloo community painting event, and the annual Canstruction event, in which local architects partner with schools to host a STEAM project and raise awareness about hunger; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank has become a leading partner in disaster relief efforts, as natural disasters affect the local community and sometimes cause those from other states to seek refuge in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 caused upheaval around the world, the demands upon food banks skyrocketed, with more locals seeking groceries and food assistance than ever before as they faced unemployment, sickness, and unpredictable circumstances; the Chattanooga Area Food Bank was a beacon in the storm during this unprecedented time of distress, offering assistance to all those who so desperately needed it; and

WHEREAS, from the flagship location at 2009 Curtain Pole Road to the Foxwood Food Center in Chattanooga and the Northwest Georgia Branch in Dalton, Georgia, this exemplary nonprofit organization is a pillar of the region and a source of hope for so many; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is an organization founded on compassionate service to those in need; it is a superb example of the good works that can be done through kindness, concern, and a volunteer spirit; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the Chattanooga Area Food Bank for serving the people of the Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia region for fifty years, extending our gratitude to the volunteers and staff of the organization, both past and present, for dedicating

their time and talents to advancing the public good and our best wishes for the organization's continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.